

Tipster Denies His Story of Ferrie-Oswald Link

A private investigator admitted to the Secret Service that he lied when he said he knew of a connection between David W. Ferrie and presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, according to Government documents.

Mr. Ferrie, who was found dead in his New Orleans apartment Wednesday, was named by investigator Jack S. Martin as the man who allegedly trained Oswald in using weapons with telescopic sights and who might have been lined up as a getaway pilot.

The report, on file at the National Archives here, asserted that these allegations, and others, were "without foundation," and that Mr. Martin had admitted to both the Secret Service and the FBI that he had concocted them.

According to the report filed by Secret Service agents

Anthony E. Gerrels and John W. Rice, Mr. Martin said he called New Orleans Asst. Dist. Atty. Herman S. Kohlman during a drinking bout on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after President Kennedy was assassinated.

The report, covering the agents' work between Nov. 24 and 26, 1963, in New Orleans, said:

"Martin, who had every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from 'telephonitis' when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking sprees that he telephoned (Kohlman and told) him this fantastic story (about Ferrie's alleged connection with Oswald)."

The Secret Service report added that Mr. Martin had a reputation in New Orleans of furnishing "incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc." (U)